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DRAFT MINUTES OF ELTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN HIGHGATE HALL ON TUESDAY 9TH JANUARY 2024 COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors Tim Cummins, Justin Hawkesford, Malcolm McCann, Ian Ross (Chair), Jan Speechley, Shirley Strowbridge, Brett Walsh, Paul Willson

IN ATTENDANCE: Kerry Rew, Clerk; County Cllr Simon Bywater; eight members of the public

		ACTION
	Cllr Ross welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
1.	APOLOGIES: Cllr Taylor, District Cllr Beuttell	
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.	
3.	<p>PUBLIC FORUM:</p> <p>1. A presentation was given by Charlie Kitchin, Partnership Manager of CityFibre to explain and answer questions regarding their installation of gigabit full-fibre broadband in Elton. Also in attendance from CityFibre were Gary Bradshaw, Build Manager, and Scott Checkland, Build Assurance Manager, and representing Cambridgeshire County Council Connecting Cambridgeshire was Celen Clulow. City Fibre has been awarded contracts for Project Gigabit which is a government initiative to install full-fibre connectivity in hard-to-reach communities with funding from Building Digital UK (BDUK). Unlike Gigaclear, this is an open network to which other providers (e.g. Vodafone) can connect, thereby giving residents a wider choice of provider.</p> <p>Work, by the contractor Granemore, commenced on 8th January and where possible will use existing Open Reach ducting and poles. As a ‘Statutory Undertaker’, CityFibre already has legal permission for any other works deemed necessary. The build will take 4 – 6 weeks.</p> <p>Concern had been raised by residents regarding the installation of a 9-metre pole on protected village land at Stocks Green and it was confirmed that this would not be required, nor any other above ground works on the greens. Concerns were also raised regarding the necessity of installing two further telegraph poles in Brawn Way, trenching in the churchyard, and the size and type of cabinets and poles.</p> <p>Cllr Ross requested a simplified (and confirmed) plan which would be more understandable for the non-technical.</p> <p>Cllr Walsh requested details of the extent of work for Bullock Road (omitted by Gigaclear).</p> <p>County Cllr Bywater expressed disappointment and concern at CityFibre’s lack of effective communication or consultation both with residents and the Parish Council. Ms Clulow, Programme Manager of Connecting Cambridgeshire, explained that their role was to act as liaison between the installer and County Highways and that any queries or complaints can be raised with them for support. www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk</p>	

	<p>2. Concern was raised about HDC’s green waste policy and the apparent lack of consistency in approach and information. From April 2024 when the new collection charge will commence, it will no longer be possible to include <i>cooked</i> food waste in the green bins, but other <i>uncooked</i> kitchen waste (peelings etc.) will also be excluded. Cllr Bywater advised that DEFRA are due to propose the standardisation of food waste disposal across all counties. This, plus feedback from local residents, and the very poor take up so far of the discounted early bird offer on the collection charge, may prompt a rethink of the policy.</p>	
4.	<p>COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS’ UPDATE: Cllr Bywater explained that due to the revision of the National Planning Policy Framework on 19th December (one day after the DMC meeting) HDC have resubmitted the planning application for the Haddon solar farm to the Development Management Committee for decision at their next meeting on 22nd January. Unlike the previous DMC meeting no speakers will be allowed. Cllrs Ross and Walsh to attend. Cllr Bywater confirmed his support of the Parish Council LHI application for double yellow lines on the upper part of Middle Street. HDC is to take over responsibility from the County for on-street parking enforcement likely to take effect in early 2025 which may also be a deterrent.</p>	
5.	<p>MINUTES OF MEETING 12TH DECEMBER 2023: Proposed Cllr McCann, seconded Cllr Hawkesford and APPROVED as a true record.</p>	
6.	<p>FINANCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The monthly Accounts and Cashflow Update for December was circulated prior to the meeting and presented by the Clerk. Of note was the £125 interest payment from the new Unity Trust Bank savings account and the compensation payment of £150 from Barclays. Spreadsheet attached showing income, expenditure, and YTD balance. 2. There were 4 payments presented for authorisation per the Schedule of Payments below. AGREED. 3. Per the December meeting, the precept request was duly submitted to HDC and has subsequently been confirmed at £18000 for payment in April. 	
7.	<p>PLANNING & PLANNING APPLICATIONS:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NNC Consultation NE/22/00151/FUL – Halden’s Parkway, Thrapston. Draft objection to the amended application reviewed and approved for submission by the 12th January deadline. 2. Requested wayleave from CityFibre no longer required as noted at Item 3. 1. 	
8.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reminder about the Combined Authority Walking & Cycling information sessions hosted by Sustrans 29th, 30th January and 5th February via Teams. 2. Application for Community Infrastructure Levy must be for a known and fully costed project, the only one of which is the traffic calming on Wansford Road. AGREED to make application. Deadline 22nd January. 3. An open meeting for Town and Parish councils will be hosted by CCC via Teams to present the 2024-25 budget on 11th January. Public survey is open until 16th January. 4. Consultation is taking place to review HDC planning guidance – deadline 21st January. 	ALL

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Daytime closure of Bullock Road for resurfacing 23.02. - 31.03.24 information circulated. 6. Two surveys being conducted by CCC on performance of Highways and Street lighting contractors. Cllr Ross noted the difficulty of fault reporting street light issues to Balfour Beatty, having no tracking. Both surveys to be discussed at next meeting - deadline 28th February. 7. A1 southbound Stamford to Wansford closed for essential improvements 8th January to early April – weeknights only. 8. A meeting organised by the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Northants will be held to discuss applying for National Landscapes (formerly Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) status in the Nene Valley. Should this be achieved, it could help protect against development. Cllrs Ross and Speechley to attend on behalf of Parish Council. 	
9.	<p>REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS & CLERK</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clerk’s report – notifications and updates for information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Cllr Speechley to take part in CAPALC councillor training in January; Cllrs Hawkesford and Walsh to participate in March. ii. Clerk has obtained permission from CCC Highways for the contractor to check for utilities in location of new noticeboard rather than delay installation further. Cllr Ross to follow up with contractor. Cllr Hawkesford to provide details for water/sewage. iii. No progress on works to rectify the leak at Ailington Leas, Back Lane. Gullies were cleaned on 11th December as part of cyclic cleaning schedule earlier than anticipated. Running water also apparent from drain outside Rectory Farm Mews. A stretch of Middle Street was covered in frozen water, which presented a considerable danger especially outside the shop. This was reported to Anglian Water who stated it was due to run-off from the donkey field. RFM residents to monitor. iv. Online fault reports update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead rowan on Back Lane – branches removed by resident - Damaged footpath outside Highgate Hall pending - Grit bins in Hayes Walk and Faber Lane have been refilled - Cllr Walsh to work with Cllr Beuttell regarding fly tip in ditch on Oundle Road and in Gated Road gateway. To seek resolution from either HDC or Environment Agency. - Dilapidated signs on Highgate Green, Duck Street and Greenhill Road reported to HDC - pending v. No update regarding the state of the towpath from Elton Lock to Warmington Lock. vi. Clerk to contact SMV regarding 2024 grass cutting schedule and charges. 2. CCC LHI 2024/25 – Following extensive public consultation with residents, the school, and the village shop, almost all affected were in favour of the suggestion for double yellow lines on the upper part of Middle Street. Scheme would be at minimal cost to the Parish and has been enthusiastically endorsed by Cllr Bywater. Application to be submitted before 12th January deadline. 3. Wansford Road LHI update – Awaiting information on position of narrowing feature from CCC. 4. 20 mph Initiative – latest revision implements Parish Council comments regarding reducing the number of repeater signs by 	IR JH

	<p>replacement with road surface roundels or mounting on parish-owned lamp posts. Cllr Ross to confirm acceptance to CCC.</p> <p>5. Speed Watch/MVAS – latest Speed Watch and MVAS data report (attached) circulated by Cllr Ross prior to the meeting. Sign to be relocated to Wansford Road. Cllr McCann suggested that it be mounted to face outgoing traffic to assess effectiveness of speed reduction in that direction.</p> <p>Order placed for the purchase of a second speed sign as agreed at the 10th October Parish Council meeting at £1799.00 (plus shipping and VAT). Delivery in the next week.</p> <p>6. Flood Group update – Cllr Speechley reported that 7 residents have volunteered together with 5 councillors. She hopes to set up a meeting in the village with the Senior Flood Risk Officer at CCC, a representative of the Environment Agency and the volunteers to assist with the creation and formalisation of a Flood Group Community Plan which will then release funding from the Environment Agency and CCC for equipment.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to report instances of flooding into their properties to CCC at Report a flood - Cambridgeshire County Council to help build a better picture and ensure that Elton continues to be as best protected as possible. The response from volunteers was acknowledged and is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>7. Reports from councillors – Motion proposed by Cllr Taylor as beneficial to protect rights of way etc: <i>Elton Parish Council to join the Open Space Society as a parish council member at an annual cost of £45</i>. Seconded Cllr Cummins RESOLVED Cllr Speechley to follow up wildflower sowing in designated areas of the village. Resident reported damaged bench outside school. Cllr Ross to assess.</p>	<p>IR</p> <p>CLERK</p> <p>JS</p> <p>IR</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:</p> <p>Tuesday, 13th February 2024</p> <p>The meeting closed at 21:31</p>	

DATE	TRANSACTION	PAYEE	DETAILS	TOTAL
09/01/2024	B/P	Ms K Rew	Clerk's salary December 23	£318.72
09/01/2024	B/P	Ms K Rew	Clerk's expenses December 23	£221.49
09/01/2024	B/P	CAPALC	Councillor training Jan Speechley	£75.00
09/01/2024	B/P	Highgate Hall	Room hire December	£20.00
TOTAL				£635.21